# Dell™ OptiPlex™ XE — Watchdog Timer

Dell OptiPlex Watchdog Timer allows you to:

- monitor your computer's status.
- track programs listed in the Microsoft® Windows® Task Manager.
- define the actions to be taken when a tracked program stops within a defined interval of time.

You can download and install Watchdog Timer from the Dell support website at **support.dell.com/support/downloads**.

## Enabling Watchdog Timer on System Setup

You can enable Watchdog Timer from System Setup (BIOS).
Watchdog Timer's hardware counter starts when you enable it in the System Setup.

**CAUTION: Enabling Watchdog Timer in System Setup without installing it first, can cause your computer to reboot continuously.**

**NOTE:** If you access Watchdog Timer without enabling it in the System Setup, a message appears indicating that Watchdog Timer is disabled and you must enable it in the System Setup.

**NOTE:** You must install Watchdog Timer before enabling it in the System Setup.

1. Turn on the computer and press the <F2> key when you see the Dell logo. The System Setup screen appears.
2. Click **Maintenance**→ **Watchdog Timer Support**.
3. Select the **Enable Watchdog Timer** check box.
4. Click **Apply** and **Exit**. The computer restarts.

**NOTE:** Ensure that Watchdog Timer is disabled before performing an Operating System reinstallation or if you pause your computer during the Power-on Self Test (POST).

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### Accessing Watchdog Timer

To access Watchdog Timer:

- Click the **Dell OptiPlex XE Watchdog Timer** icon on your desktop.
  The Watchdog Timer's application interface window appears.
- Click **Start**→ **Programs**→ **Dell**→ **Dell OptiPlex XE Watchdog Timer**.
  The Watchdog Timer's application interface window appears.

## Using Watchdog Timer

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|---|---|
| **System Monitor** | It displays the current status of your computer. Watchdog Timer monitors your computer during the following stages:<br>• Turning on the computer<br>• Loading the Operating System<br>• After loading the Operating System<br>In the Operating System interface, Watchdog Timer tracks the programs running in the Windows task manager.<br>**NOTE:** If your computer stops responding within the defined refresh interval, Watchdog Timer restarts your computer.<br>For information on changing the refresh interval, see "Changing the Refresh Interval" on page 11. |
| **Program Monitor** | Allows you to select the programs to be monitored by Watchdog Timer from those listed in the Windows task manager.<br>**NOTE:** You can also view the status of the programs that are tracked.<br>For information on tracking the programs, see "Tracking the Programs" on page 11. |
| **Configuration** | Allows you to change Watchdog Timer's auto run and program monitor log file related settings.<br>For information of setting auto-run feature, see "Setting the Auto run Feature" on page 13.<br>For information on enabling the program monitor status log, see "Enabling the Program Status Monitor Log" on page 13. |
| **About** | It displays the Watchdog Timer's version and copyright details. |

## Changing the Refresh Interval

Watchdog timer tracks the programs listed in the windows task manager over a defined interval of time.

To configure the refresh interval in Watchdog Timer:

1. Click the **System Monitor** tab on the Watchdog Timer's application interface.
2. In the **Watchdog Timer refresh interval** section:
   - Click the + or - buttons to set the interval.
   - Click the ... button, enter the refresh interval in seconds and click **OK**.

## Tracking the Programs

To select the programs to track:

1. Click the **Program Monitor** on the Watchdog Timer's application interface.
2. In the **Program Status** section, click the button and choose the programs that you wish to monitor using Watchdog Timer.

   **NOTE:** You can track only the programs running in your Windows task manager. You can track a maximum of five programs from the Watchdog Timer's application interface.

3. Select the check box of the program that you wish to track.

   **NOTE:** If you click the button of an already tracked program, a message appears informing you to stop the currently tracked program.

## Defining the Actions

You can define the actions that must be initiated if a program fails to respond within the defined track interval.

To define the actions:

1. Click the **Program Monitor** tab on the Watchdog Timer's application interface.
2. In the **Program Status** section, click the icon. The **Tracking Detail Settings** window appears.
3. Select the actions that must be performed when your program stops responding.

**a** Click **Reboot system** to restart your computer.

- Click **Software Reboot** to restart your computer under software control.
- Click **Hardware Reboot** to restart your computer without performing any shut-down procedure.

**CAUTION: A Hardware Reboot causes data loss. Save your data to prevent data loss.**

**b** Click **End the Program** to end a non-responsive program.

**NOTE:** Selecting this option will end only the non-responsive program without automatically restarting it.

**c** Click **Restart the Program** to end and restart the program.

**4** Click **OK**.

## Configuring the Track Interval and Timeout Period

On the Program Monitor tab you can specify the frequency of the checks performed by the Watchdog timer on the monitored program's status. You can also specify the duration during which the watchdog timer will wait for a program to respond.

To configure the Track Interval:

1. Click the **Program Monitor** tab on the Watchdog Timer's application interface.
2. In the **Track Interval (seconds)** section, click the + or - buttons to set the track interval.
3. Click the ... button. A dialog box appears.
4. Enter the **Track Interval** in seconds and click **OK**.

To configure the Timeout period:

1. Click the **Program Monitor** tab on the Watchdog Timer's application interface.
2. In the **Timeout (seconds)** section, click the + or - buttons to set the timeout period.
3. Click the ... button. A dialog box appears.
4. Enter the **Timeout period** in seconds and click **OK**.

**NOTE:** If a program tracked by Watchdog Timer is not responding, then a message appears indicating that the program will reboot after the defined timeout period. The reboot action depends on the action that you have selected. For more information, see "Defining the Actions" on page 11.

## Setting the Auto run Feature

To set the Auto run feature:

1 Click the **Configuration** tab on the Watchdog Timer's application interface.

2 Select **Auto run when system starts up** check box to automatically start Watchdog Timer when your computer starts.

## Enabling the Program Status Monitor Log

Program log files will display the status of each program that is monitored and tracked over different intervals of time.

To enable the Program Status Monitor Log:

1 Click the **Configuration** tab on the Watchdog Timer's application interface.

2 Click the  icon to view the log files of all the programs that are monitored and tracked by Watchdog Timer.

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